

The PRISM

the newsletter of the Blackstone Canal Conservancy
<http://www.blackstonecc.org>

No. 56

December, 2016

DEEA Secretary Visits the SNETT

Secretary Matthew Beaton of the Massachusetts Department of Energy and Environmental Affairs joined in a bike ride on the Southern New England Trunkline Trail from the east end at Grove Street in Franklin to Prospect Street near the town line with Bellingham. The purpose of the ride was to show Secretary Beaton the current condition of the SNETT and to lobby for the proposed tunnel at Prospect Street. Also participating in the ride were State Representative Jeff Roy, staff members, officials of Franklin, and several committee members of the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee.

SNETT Rte. 126 Tunnel Progress

Work on the new Route 126 Tunnel (Culvert) on the SNETT is now complete with the road above paved and striped, sidewalks and guards rails installed, grading and landscaping finished, and the trail below graded. The handsome structure makes a great way to pass under the highway. Now, the need is to improve the SNETT on either side.



Looking westward along the SNETT towards the new Route 126 Tunnel on 11/7/16.

SNETT Workday

On November 5th, the Franklin Bellingham Rail Trail Committee sponsored a volunteer work day along with three DCR employees to clear overgrowth for 0.3 miles along the Southern New England Trunkline Trail from Fox Run Road westward to a gas pipeline crossing. DCR cut all the overgrowth and the volunteers cleared the trail after and stacked the cuttings for later chipping. This begins the process of working westward to the new Route 126 tunnel.



Trail clearance work underway on 11/5/16 looking west.



The SNETT after clearance looking eastward on 11/5/16.

SNETT / Greenway Progress

Although it seems to be taking forever, the contractors working for DCR on the paved bikeway between Route 146A in south Uxbridge and St. Paul Street in Blackstone are continuing to make progress on the combined Southern New England Trunkline Trail / Blackstone River Greenway.

The parking areas at Central St. in Millville and the Depot in Blackstone are complete including final paving, space painting, curbing, and landscaping. New playground equipment has been installed at Old Mendon Street in Blackstone. All eight bridges and the tunnel under Church Street in Blackstone are also done. There is also new signage plus benches at several locations. Only final finishing work remains.

Applications and dues (payable to the Blackstone Canal Conservancy) should be sent to the Membership Secretary; Blackstone Canal Conservancy, 16 Ballou Road, Hopedale, MA 01747-1833



View eastward across the Triad Bridge on 9/25/16



**View eastward at Old Mendon Street on 11/13/16.
Note playground equipment within the fenced area.**

Membership

Membership in the Conservancy is open to all that are interested in the Blackstone Canal, its history and its preservation. Annual dues are:

Student: \$7	Adults: \$10
Family: \$15	Organizations: \$25



View westward across the St. Paul Street Bridge on 11/13/16. There are benches just to the left of the photo.



View eastward across the Norfolk County Railroad Bridge over the Blackstone Canal and Canal Street in Blackstone on 11/13/16. In the future, the route will cross this bridge and the Blackstone Viaduct just beyond to connect up with the Greenway in Rhode Island.

Blackstone Canal Conservancy
16 Ballou Road
Hopedale, MA 01747

